

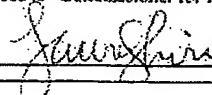
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Attorney Docket No.: LAUFNZ00200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on the date shown below.

Date: February 22, 2006

Signature: 

(Laura Shires)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,465  
Confirmation No.: 6106  
Filing Date: March 11, 2004  
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENER  
Examiner: G. Dawson  
Group Art Unit: 3731

## RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 24, 2005 for which a response was due on November 24, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to February 24, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.